Collecting a Water Sample in a Bucket
Field Guide

Task

Collect a water sample in a bucket for testing.

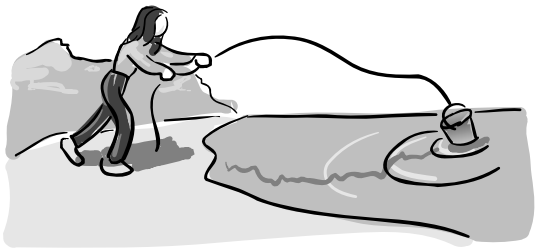
What You Need

- ❑ Bucket with rope tied securely to handle
- ❑ Latex gloves (recommended)

In the Field

1. Rinse the bucket with sample water from the site. To avoid contamination, do not pour the rinse water back into the sampling area. Be careful not to disturb the bottom sediment. Do not use distilled water to rinse the bucket or use the bucket for any other purpose.
2. Hold tightly onto the rope. If your sampling site is a stream, throw the bucket out to a well-mixed area (a riffle), a little distance from the shore. Ideally, the water should be flowing at least slightly. If you are sampling from a lake, bay, or the ocean, stand on the shore and throw the bucket as far out as possible to collect your sample.
3. If the bucket floats, jostle the rope until some water enters the bucket. You should always take a sample from the top surface water. Be careful not to let the bucket sink to the bottom or stir up bottom sediment.
4. Allow the bucket to fill about 2/3 to 3/4 full and pull it back in with the rope.
5. Immediately begin testing procedures or bottle the sample (see *Bottling a Water Sample for Classroom Testing Field Guide*).

Rinsing the water bucket.



Casting the bucket.